AS WE ENGAGE WITH THE DIGITAL WORLD, WE GROW COMFORTABLE WITH THE **HOW** QUESTIONS, THE IN-HUMAN ONES & FIND AKWARD THE **WHY** QUESTIONS, THE HUMAN ONES INVOLVING JUDGEMENTS ABOUT GOOD & EVIL. WE PHRASE HOW QUESTIONS IN TERMS OF "EFFICIENCY," "MAXIMIZATION" & "OPTIMIZATION". THE IDIOM OF PRODUCTIVITY IS SENSELESS IN ITSELF, IT CAN BE MEANINGFUL ONLY WHEN WE KNOW WHAT WE VALUE. NO NOTION OF MEANS-ENDS RATIONALITY (IF YOU VALUE **A**, YOU SHOULD DO **B**) COHERES WITHOUT A VALUE JUDGEMENT, NO AMOUNT OF **HOW** CAN GET YOU TO **WHY**.

THE **HOW** QUESTIONS GENERATE QUANTITATIVE PROPOSITIONS THAT COMPUTERS CAN HANDLE. AS WE TRANSLATE THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE INTO MACHINE LANGUAGE, WE RISK OUR MINDS BECOMING SOMETHING LIKE SATELLITE SERVERS TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR THE COMPUTERS-WHICH **DO NOT & CANNOT CARE**.

WHEN WE CONFUSE THE CONVENIENT WITH THE SIGNIFICANT, THE DEATH PRINCIPLE DESCENDS LIKE A COLD FOG.

FRANZ FANON, THE PSYCHIATRIST & ANTI-COLONIAL THINKER, OBSERVED THAT THE **EMPIRE** TRANSFORMS HUMANS FROM **WHY** CREATURES INTO **HOW** CREATURES.

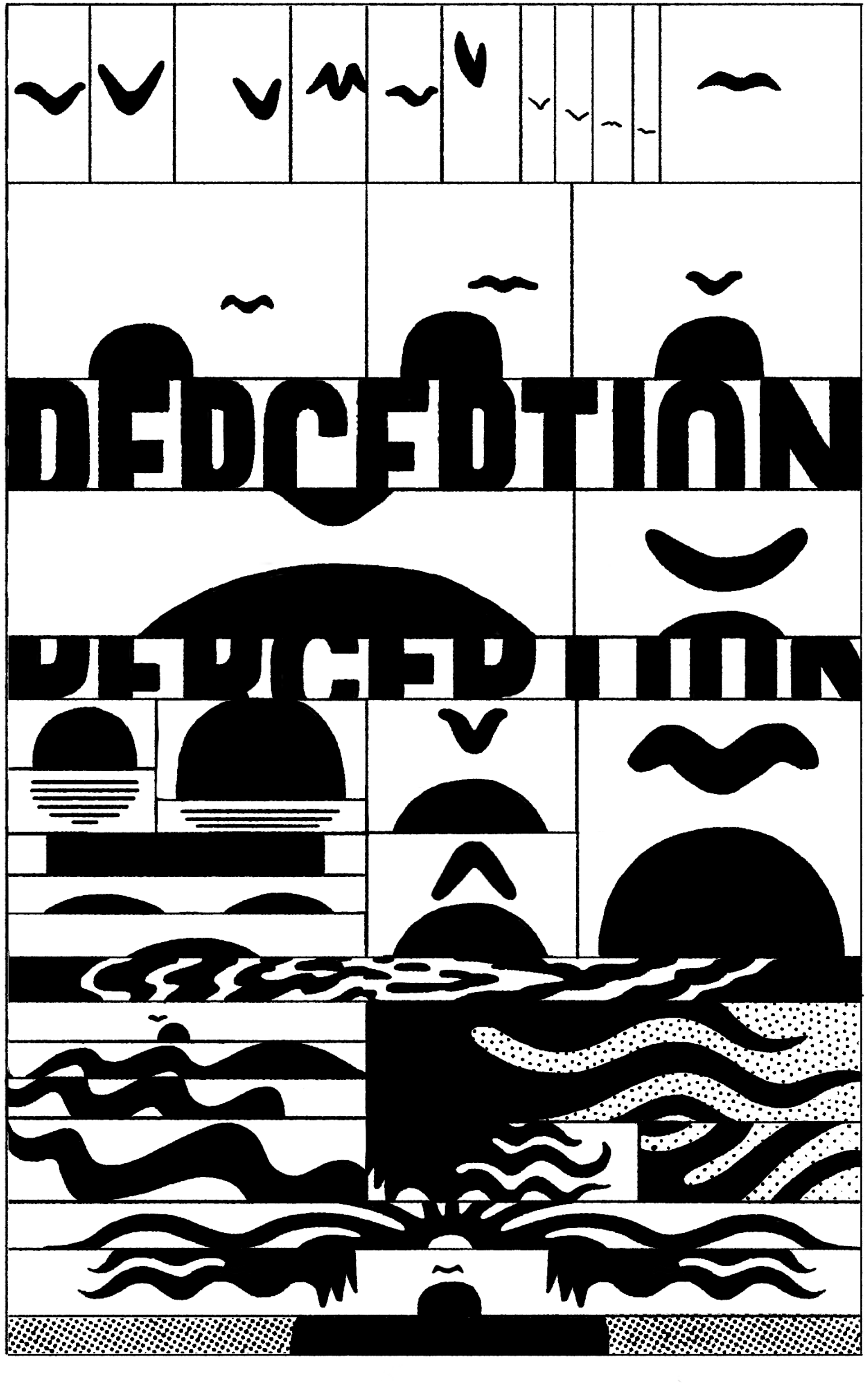
EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM ON

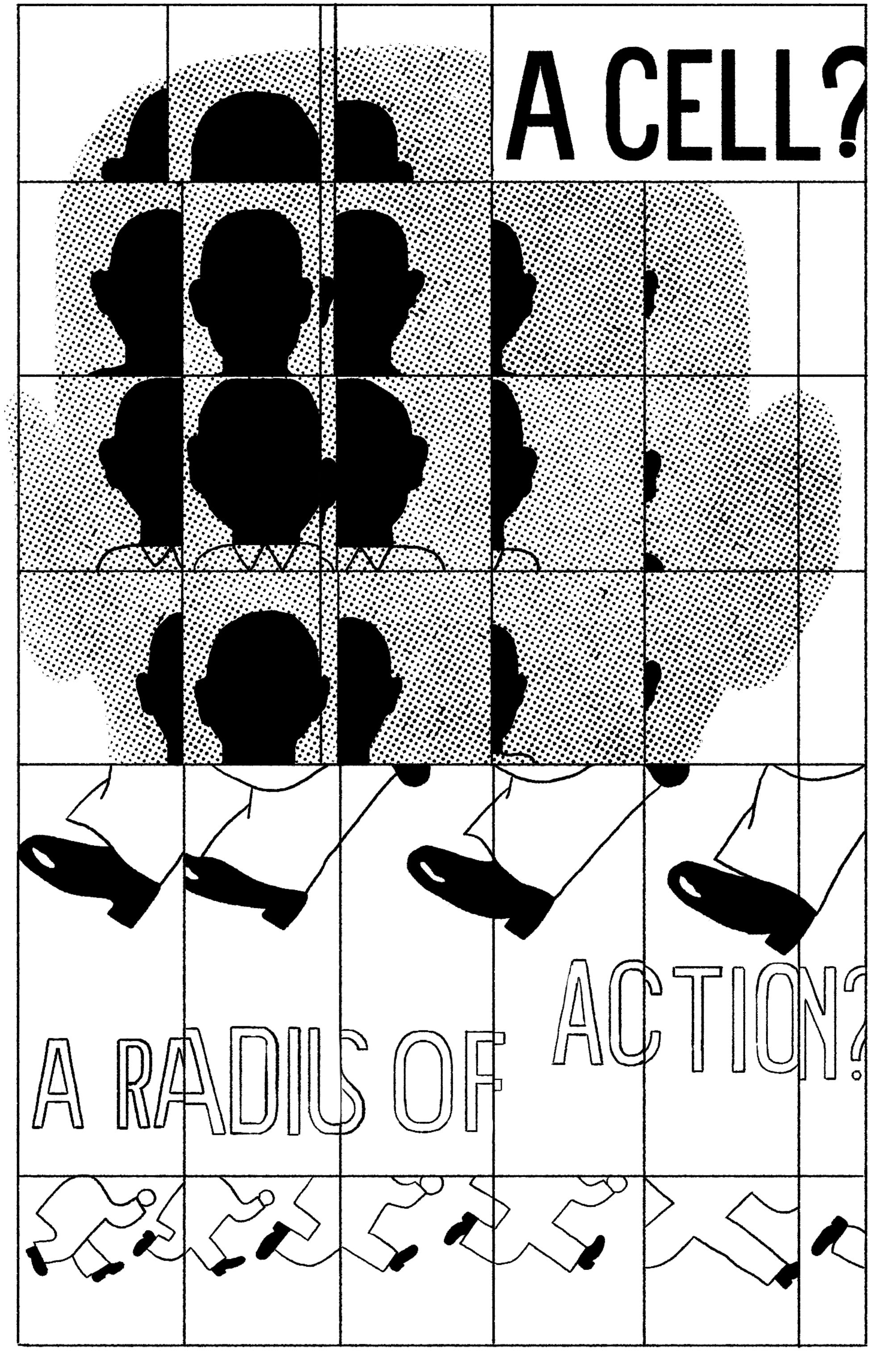
TIMOTHY

OUR DIGITAL NEMESIS (& ITS HUMAN ACOLYTES) TRAIN US TO BE "RATIONAL", IN JUST THE SENSE OF RATIONALIZATION, OF MAKING EXCUSES FOR THE VERY PROCESS THAT IS HUMILIATING US. WE ARE TO ACCEPT THE WORLD AS THE **ELITES** & THE MACHINES HAVE GIVEN IT TO US, & WE ARE TO PRAISE OUR ASCRIBED PLACE. SUCH SELF-**SUBJUGATION** IS A RETURN TO A **FEUDAL WORLD**, IN WHICH A DIVINE ORDER HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A **DIGITAL** ONE, ONE SORT OF PRIEST BY ANOTHER. THIS IS NO ENLIGHTENMENT BUT **DARKNESS**.

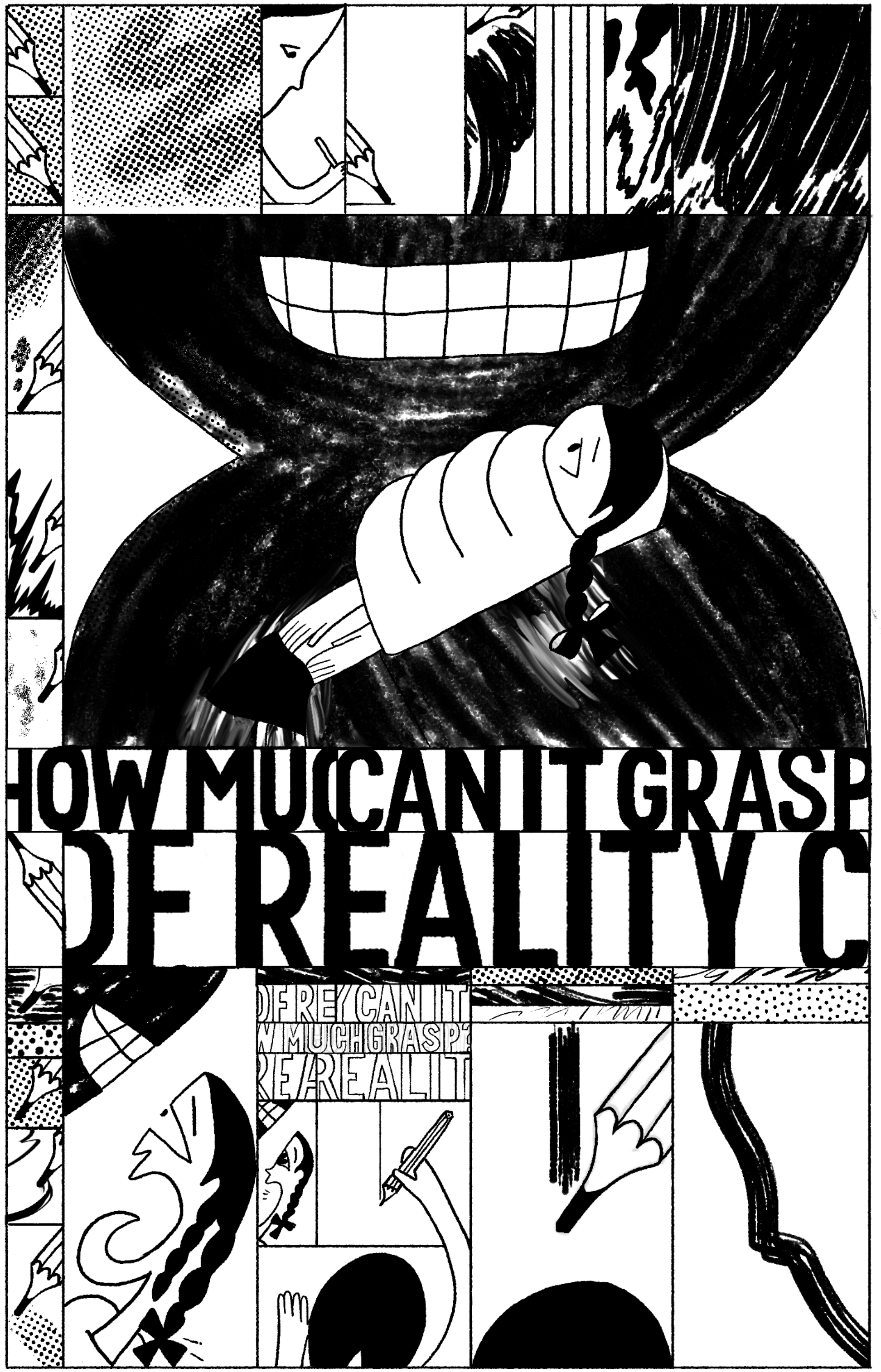
WEIL WARNED THAT THE **HOW** OF LIFE CAN CROWD OUT THE **WHY**, THAT "**UTILITY** BECOMES SOMETHING WHICH INTELLIGENCE IS NO LONGER ENTITLED TO DEFINE OR TO JUDGE, BUT ONLY TO SERVE." WHEN HUMANS CALL ON OTHER HUMANS TO TURN THEIR MINDS INTO **RATIONALIZING CIRCUITS**, THE GIST IS THAT WE SHOULD BE FUNCTIONAL, LIKE **MACHINES**. WE SHOULD SACRIFICE THE CAPACITIES WHICH MAKE US DIFFERENT FROM COMPUTERS & INSTEAD BECOME **POOR IMITATIONS** OF THEM.

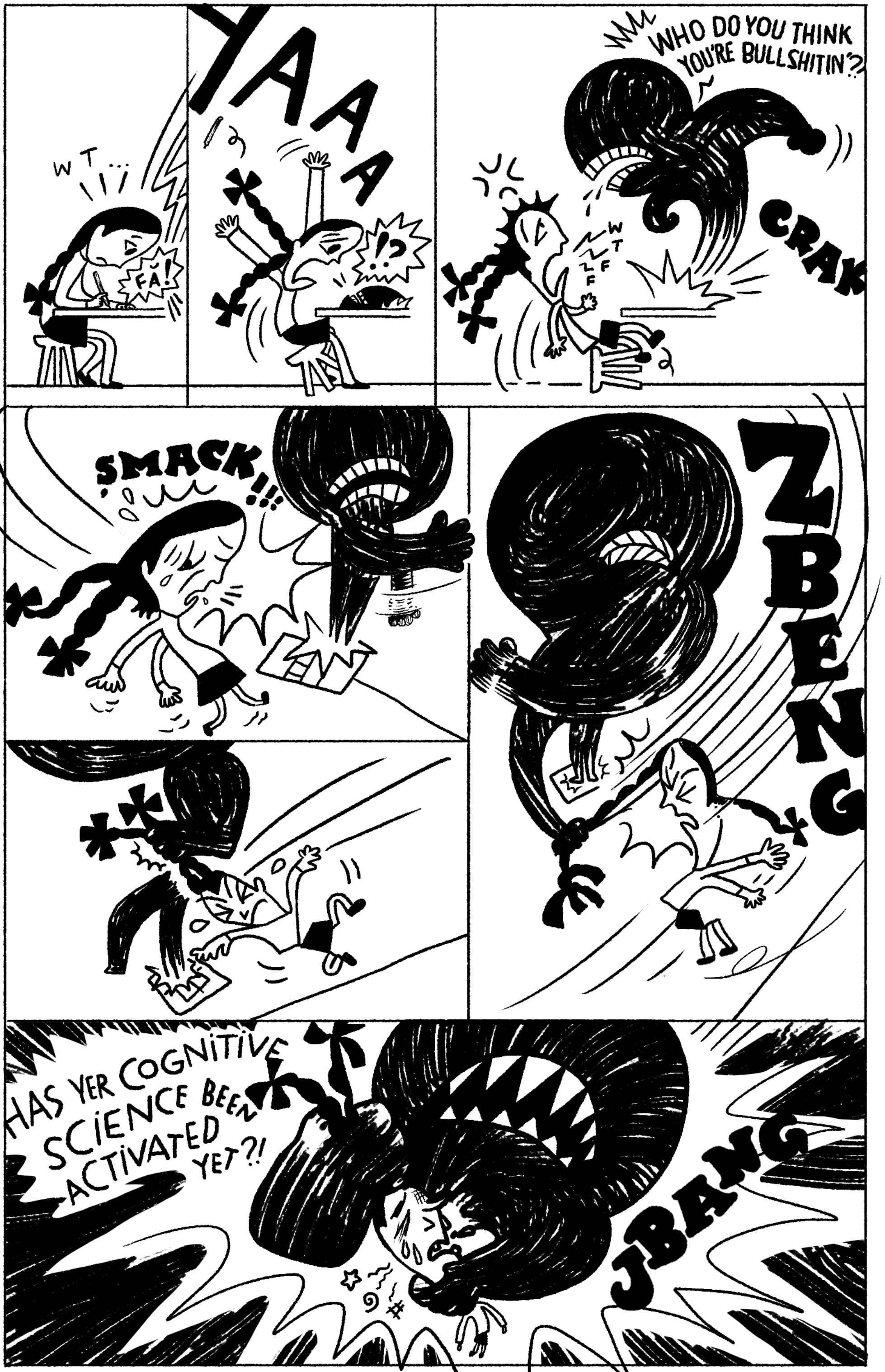
A **HUMAN INTELLIGENCE** ASKS **WHY** BEFORE IT ASKS **HOW**, THAT IS DIRECTED TOWARD **FREEDOM** RATHER THAN **UTILITY**, IS NOT RATIONAL SO MUCH AS **REASONABLE**. (...)



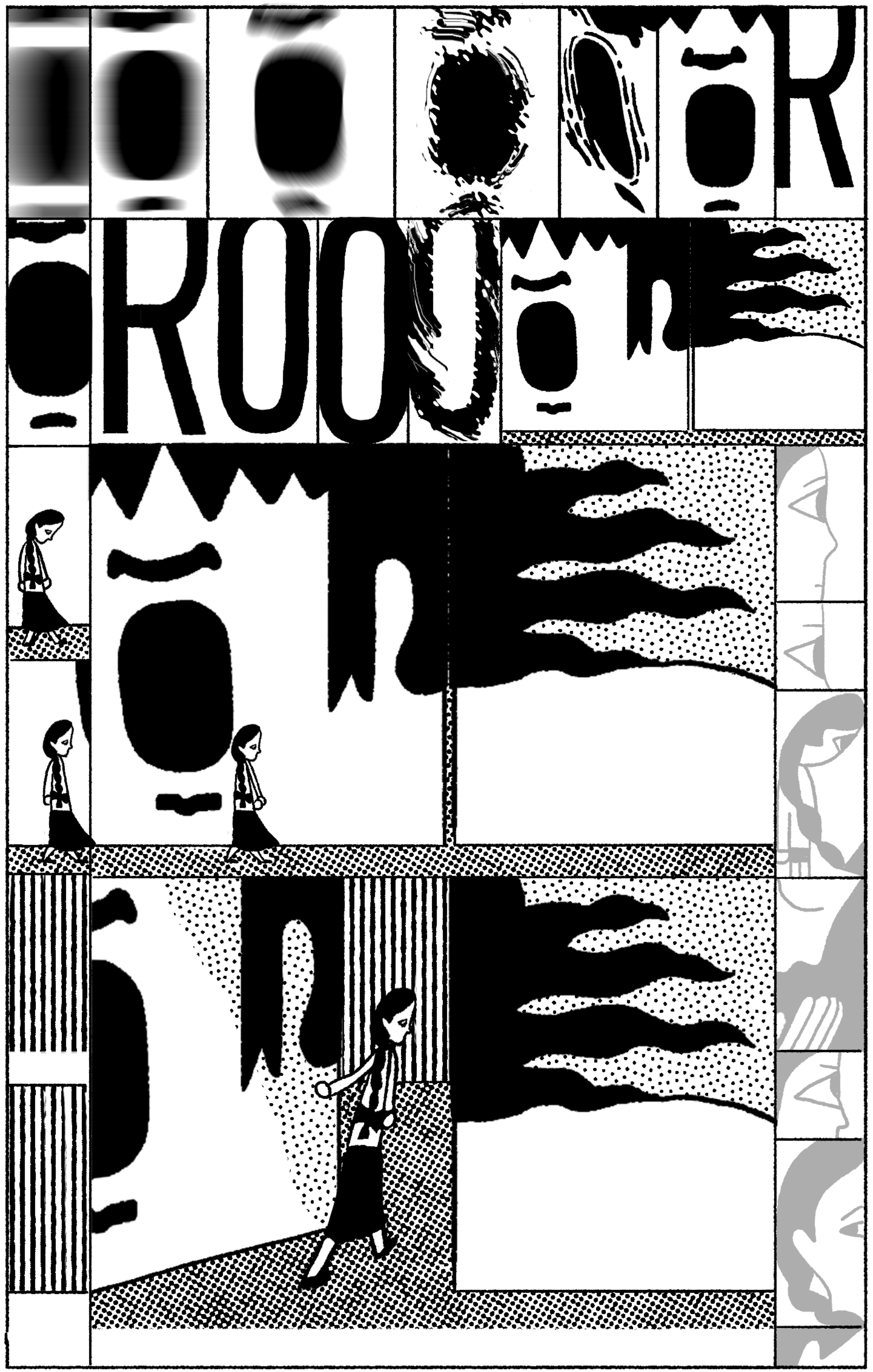
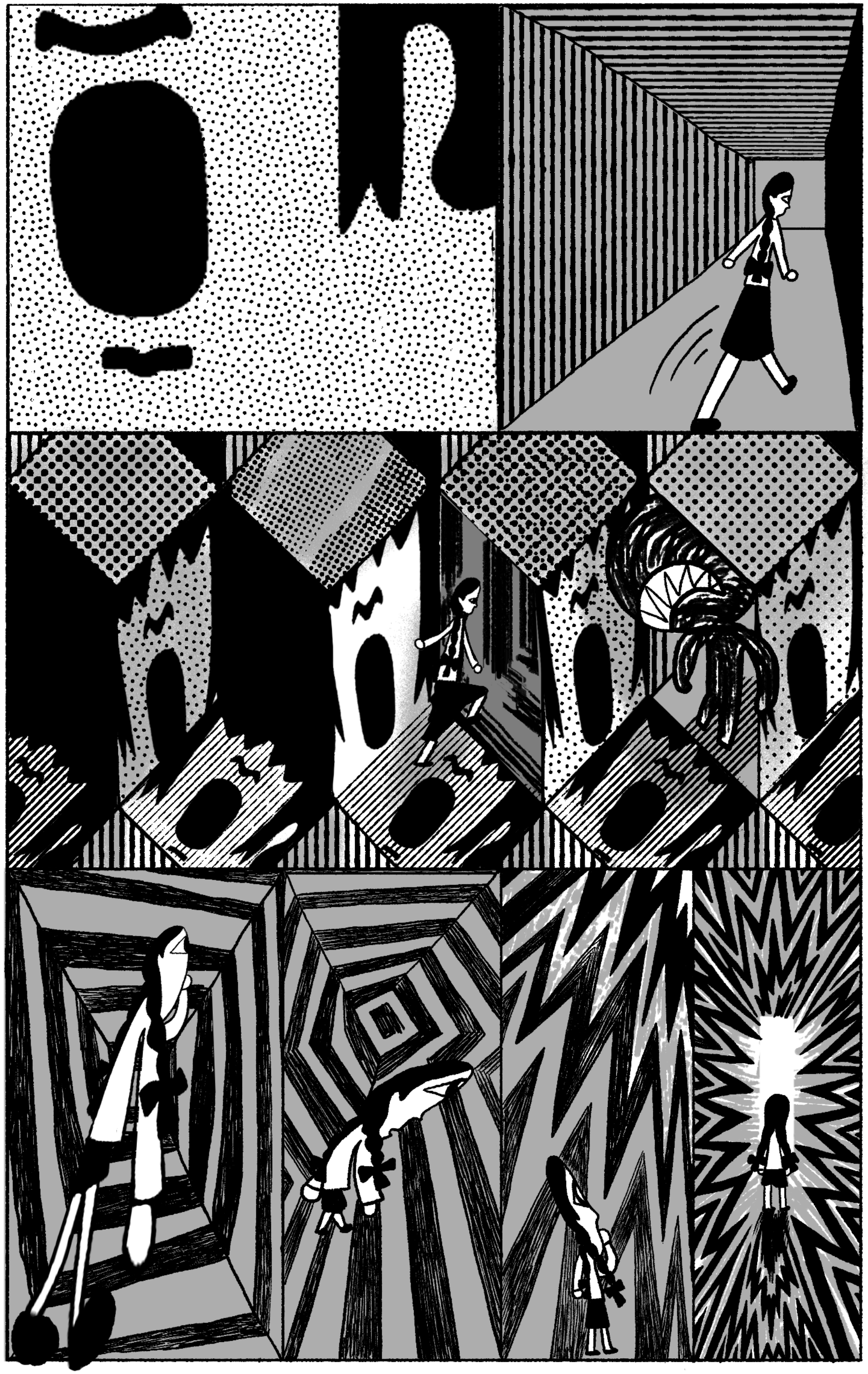

A CELL?
A RADIUS OF ACTION?

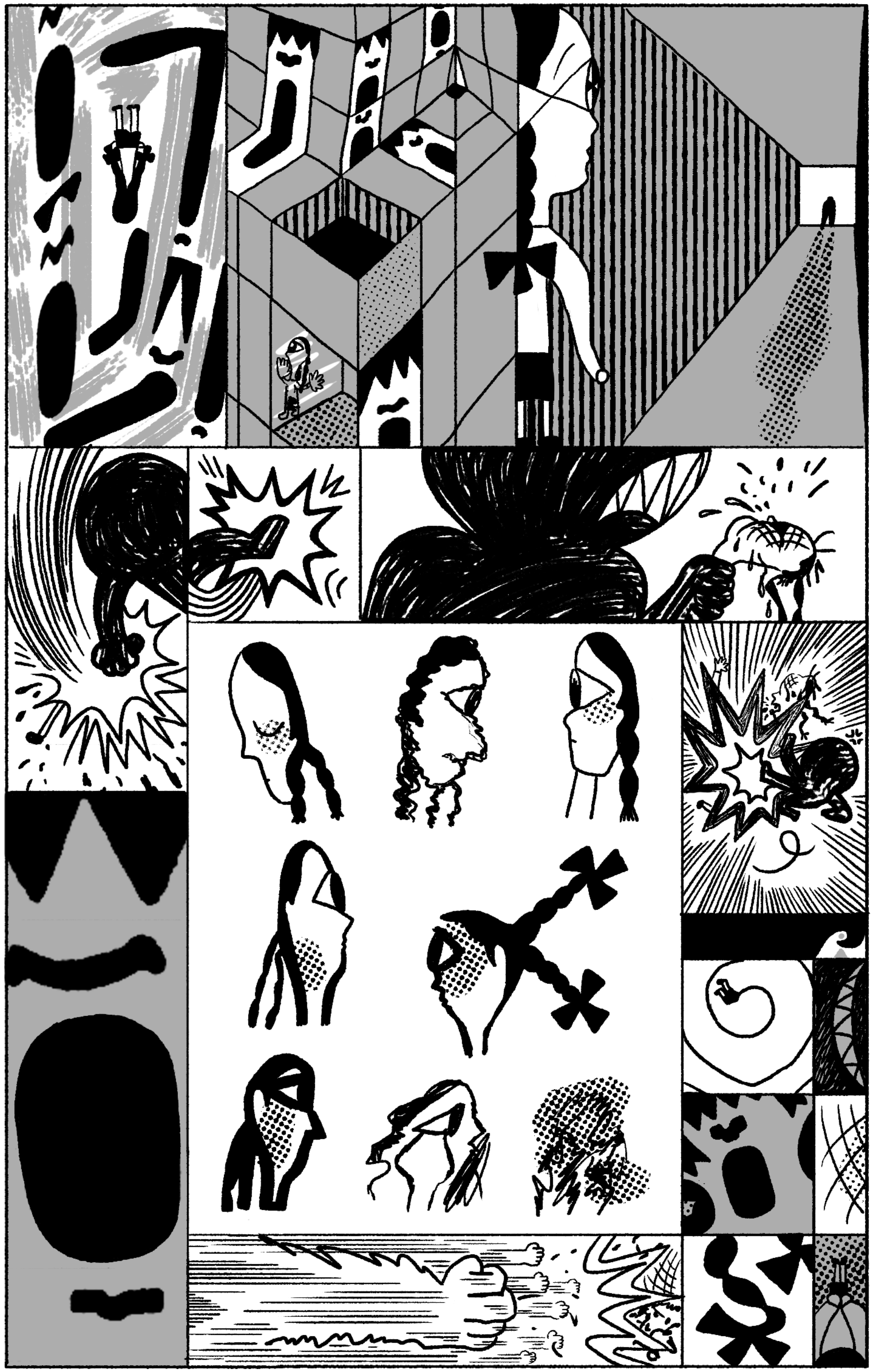
A SPACE SPPACE ?
HOW MANY LAYERS SYNTHESIZE SYNTHESIZ
LAYERS ARE S
S ARE SYNTI
SYNTHESIZE ZED

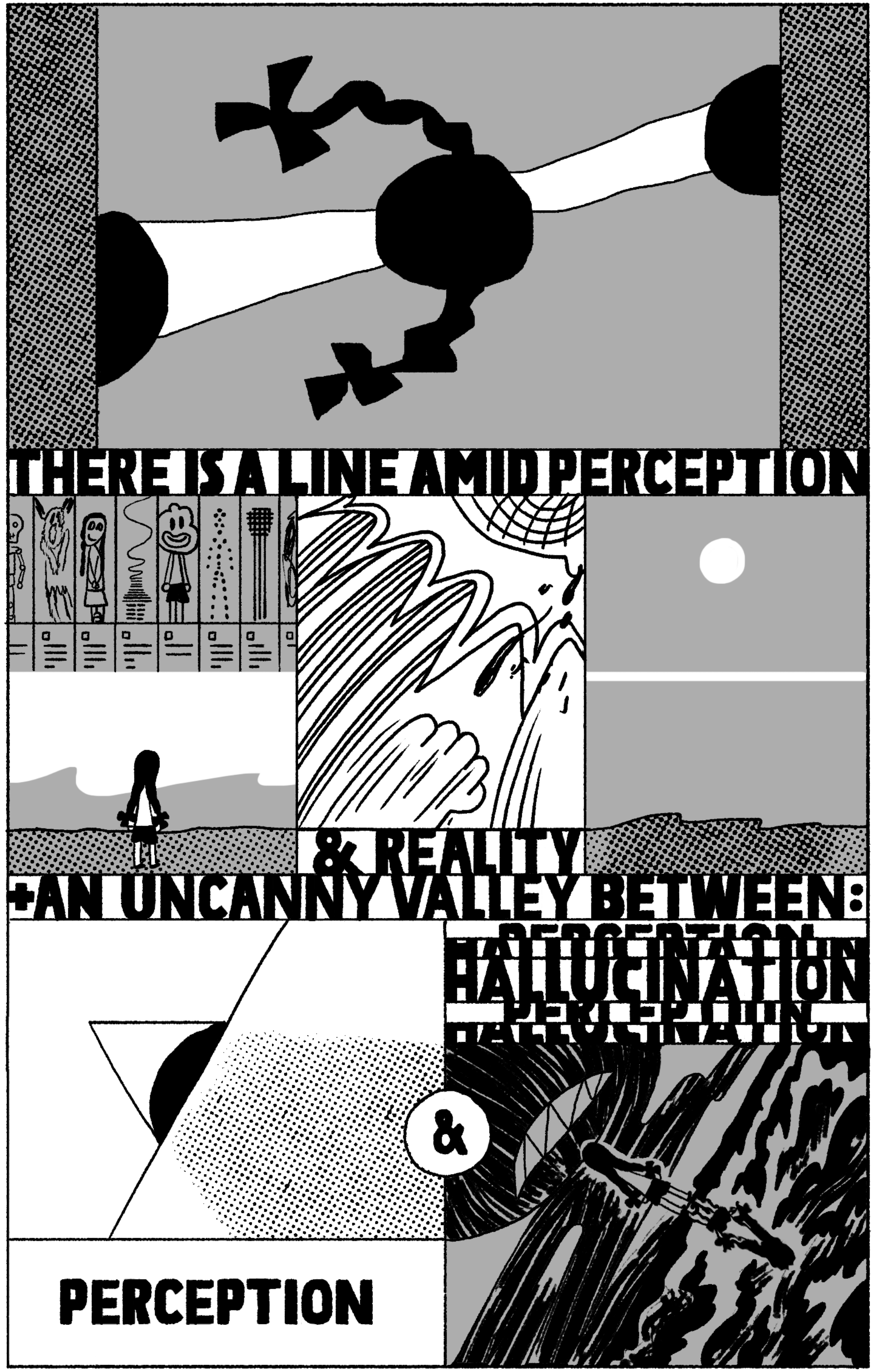

HOW MUCCAN IT GRASP
OF REALITY C
OF RE/CAN IT
W MUCH GRASP?
RE/REALIT

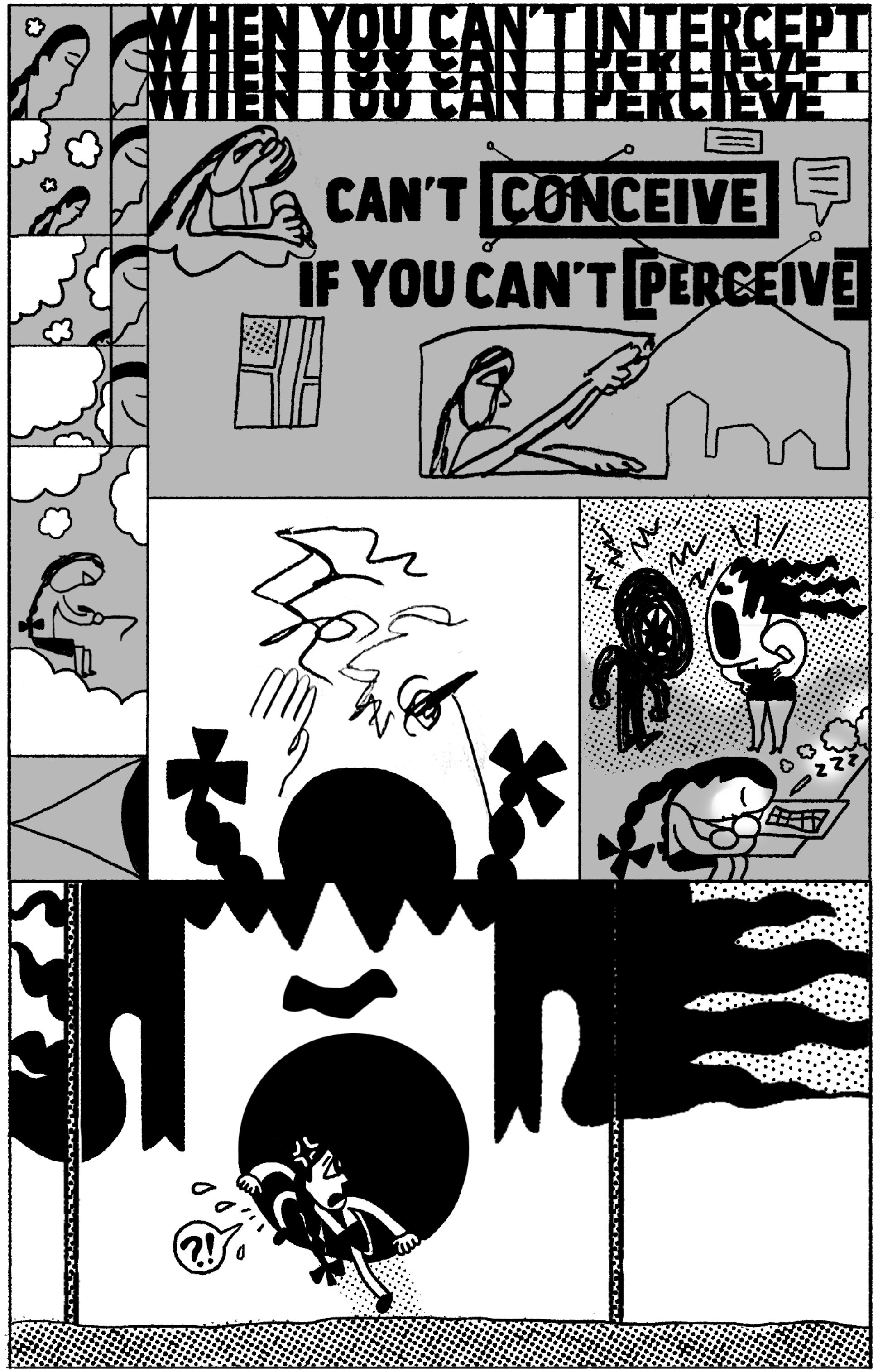

W T ...
YAAAA
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE BULLSHITIN'?!
CRAK
SMACK!!!
ZBENG
HAS YER COGNITIVE SCIENCE BEEN ACTIVATED YET?!
JBANG

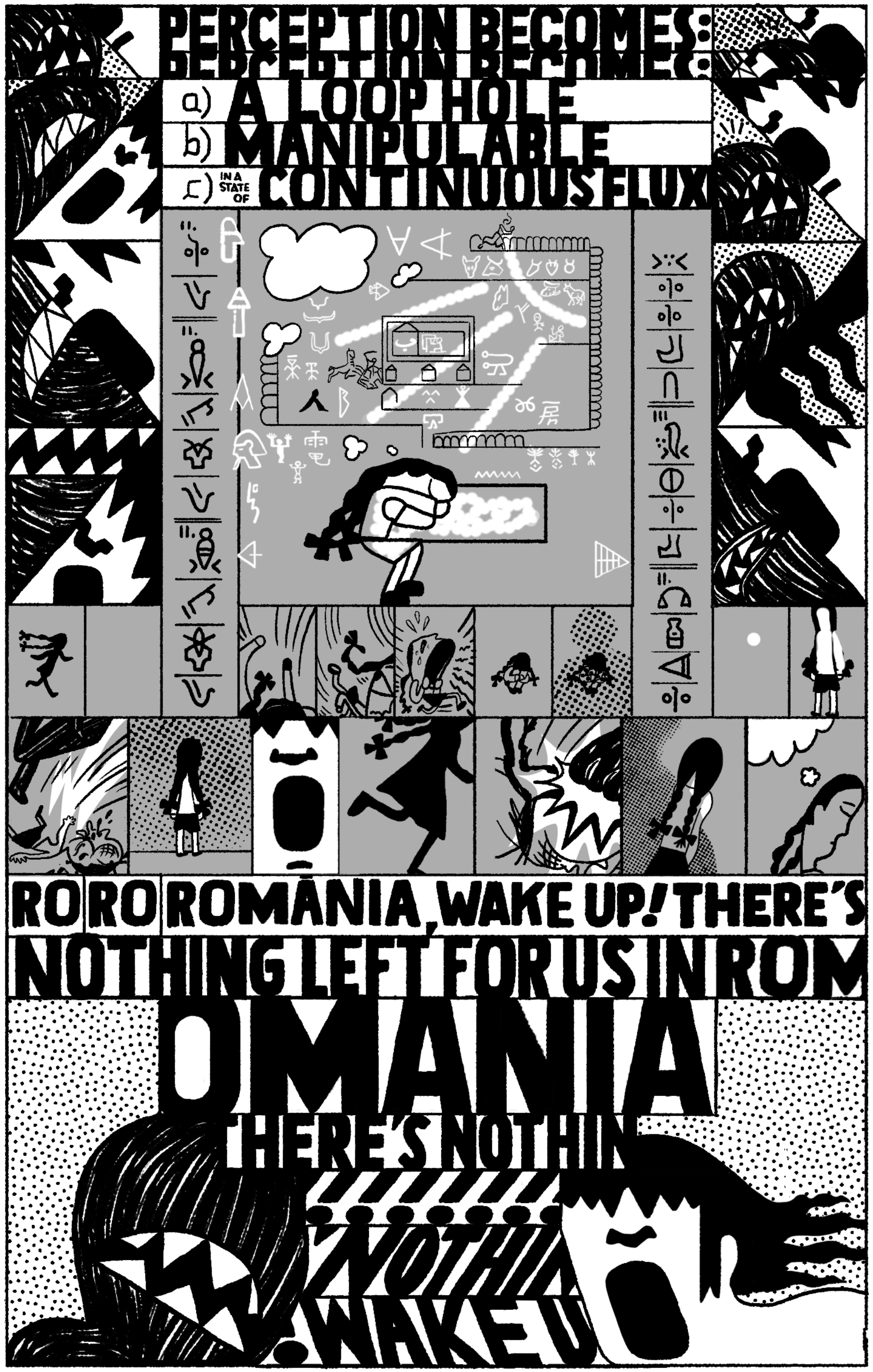
SBUF!
ZBUFFF!
POW
JBEM!

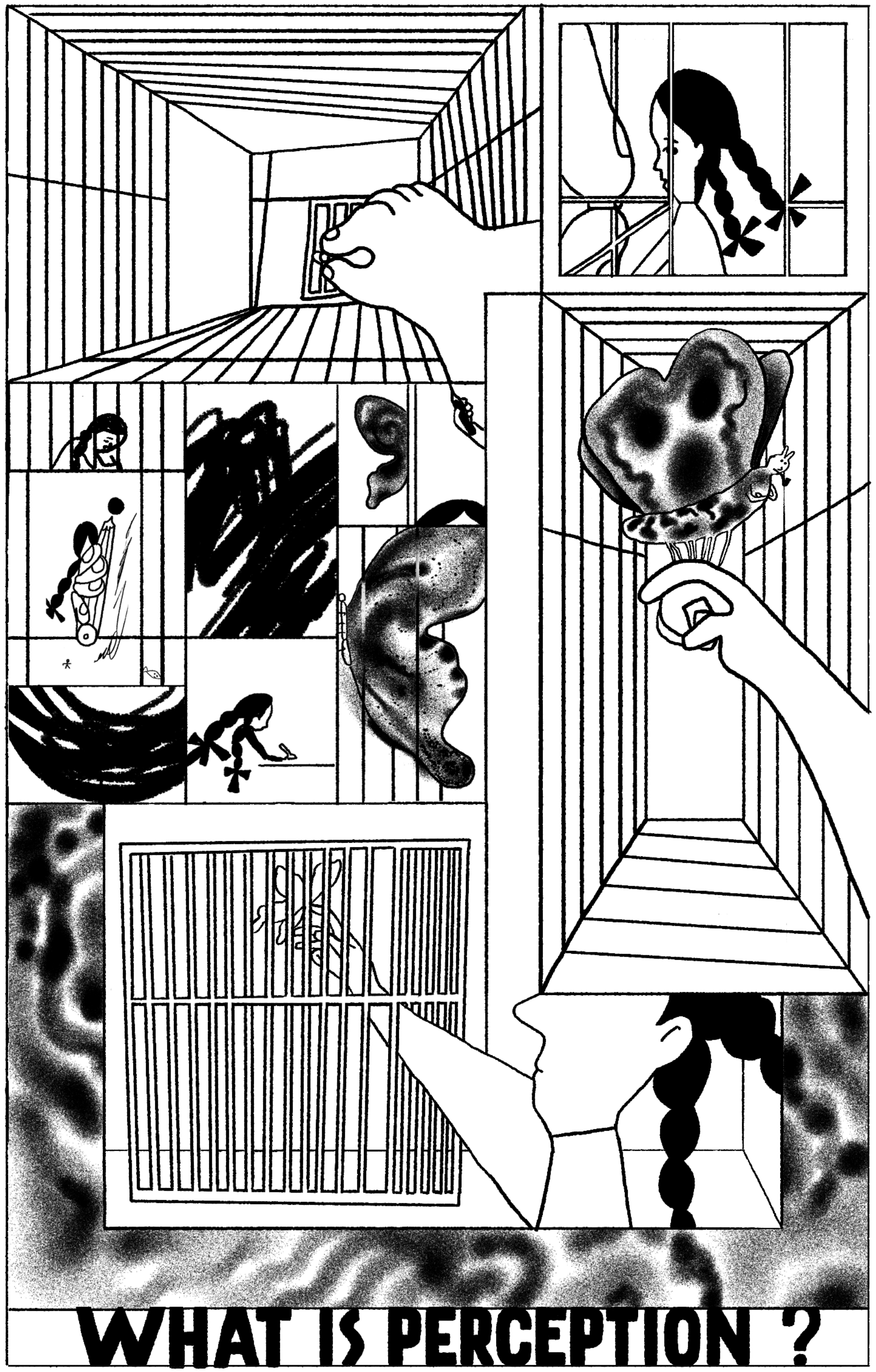

R
ROO


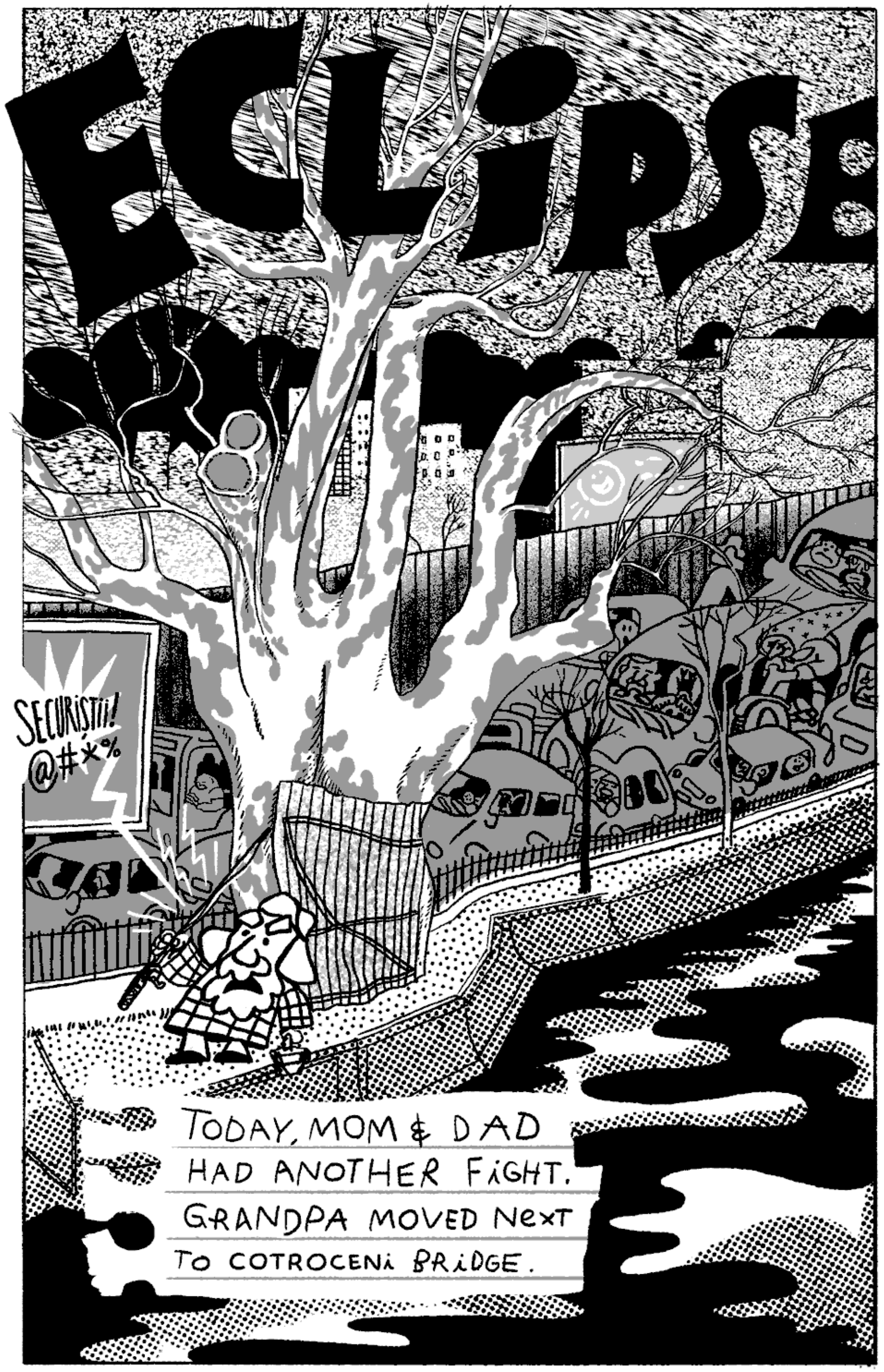


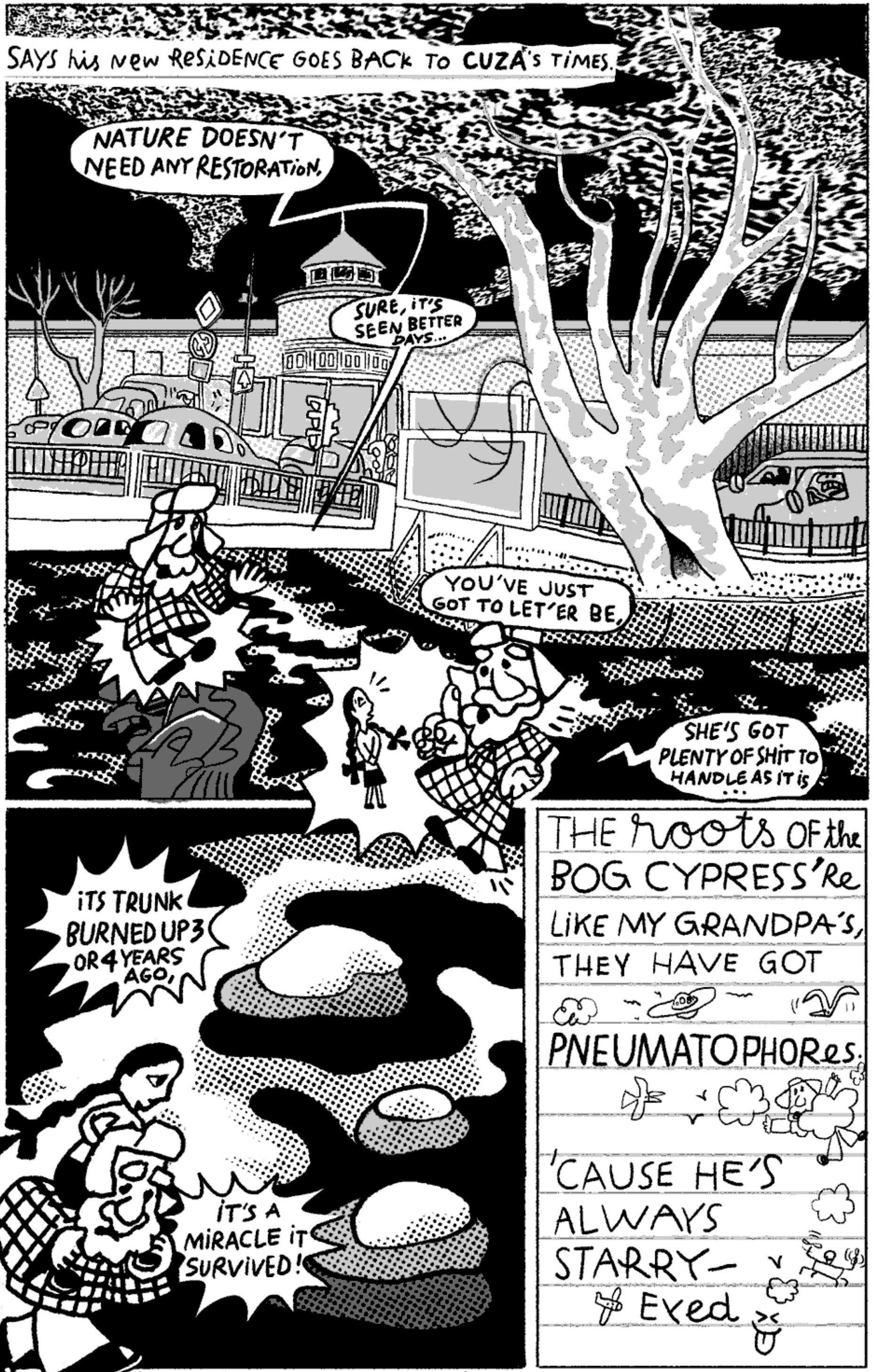

THERE IS A LINE AMID PERCEPTION
& REALITY
+AN UNCANNY VALLEY BETWEEN:
HALLUCINATION
&
PERCEPTION


WHEN YOU CAN'T INTERCEPT
WHEN YOU CAN'T PERCIEVE
CAN'T CONCEIVE
IF YOU CAN'T PERCEIVE
ZZZ
?!


PERCEPTION BECOMES:
a) A LOOP HOLE
b) MANIPULABLE
c) IN A STATE OF CONTINUOUS FLUX
RO RO ROMÂNIA, WAKE UP! THERE'S
NOTHING LEFT FOR US IN ROM
OMANIA
THERE'S NOTHIN
NOTHI
WAKE U

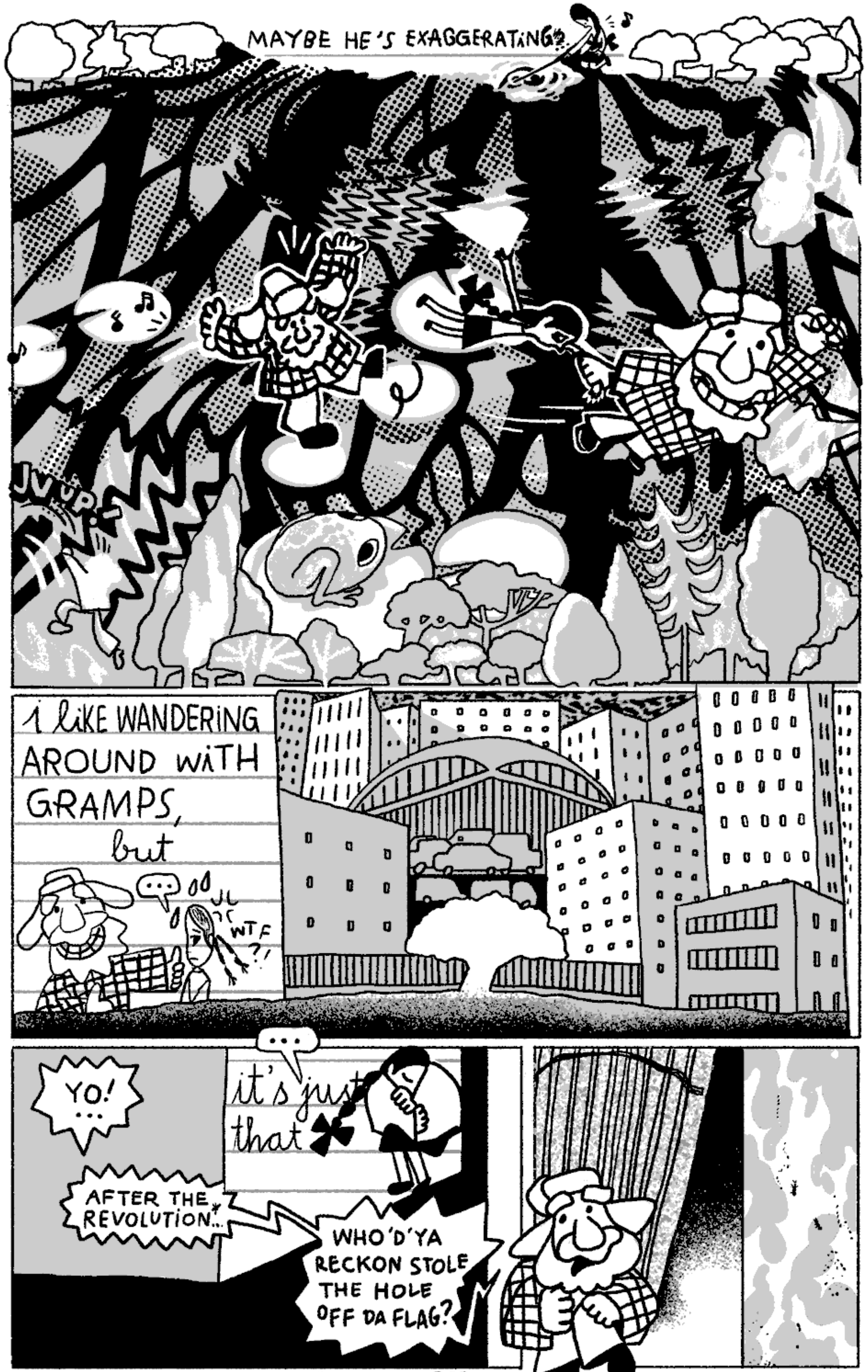

WHAT IS PERCEPTION ?


ECLIPSE
SECURIŞTII!
@#*%
TODAY, MOM & DAD
HAD ANOTHER FIGHT.
GRANDPA MOVED NEXT
TO COTROCENI BRIDGE.



*ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA (1820—1873)

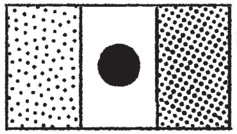
♪ SONG BY FORMAȚIA ALBATROS



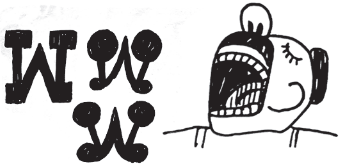
* DECEMBRE 1989

* GREAT GRANPA, GOD REST HIS SOUL, WASN'T HELD CAPTIVE BY THE RUSSIANS ONLY TO END... ** LENA CONSTANTE ON RESILIENCE

I WAS SLOW IN SCHOOL, SOME MIGHT'VE LABELLED ME RETARDED. DRAWING HELPED TO TRANSLATE THE WORLD AROUND & COMICS GAVE ME A SENSE OF ~~PLACE~~ BELONGING.



A FLAG THAT CRIED OUT, LIES SILENT NOW.



'89

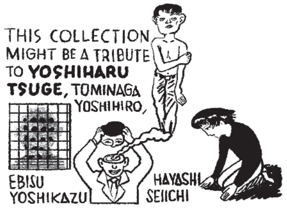
WAIT WE WAIT

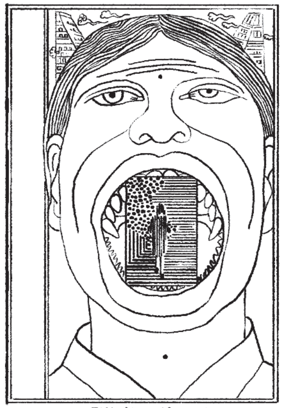
RECENT POLITICAL CONFLICTS, ALONGSIDE MY OWN ONGOING SEQUENTIAL RESEARCH INTO ROMANIAN HISTORY, CONTRIBUTED TO THESE FRAGMENTS. GROWING UP AFTER THE FALL OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME HAS MADE ME WONDER WHAT THE CHILDHOODS OF MARGINALISED PEOPLE MIGHT LOOK LIKE TODAY.

W

We ait

THIS COLLECTION MIGHT BE A TRIBUTE TO **YOSHIHARU TSUGE**, TOMINAGA YOSHIHIRO,





FUKAZAWA AWADU

I REMEMBER THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT STAYING OR LEAVING THE COUNTRY, AFTER THE REVOLUTION. THE ENDLESS TENSION & STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE WITH LITTLE MONEY. LOOKING BACK, I REALISE THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY GRANDPARENTS & PARENTS' SACRIFICES, I'D BE HOMELESS RIGHT NOW. WE WEREN'T A VIOLENT FAMILY, HOWEVER, THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FEMICIDES, INCREASES IN RENT & MORTGAGES, PUT THE FRAGILITY OF GROWING UP, NOWADAYS, INTO PERSPECTIVE. **TRAUMA** WEIGHS HEAVILY ON OUR CAPACITY TO DEVELOP & ASSESS THE WORLD AROUND.

WHILE

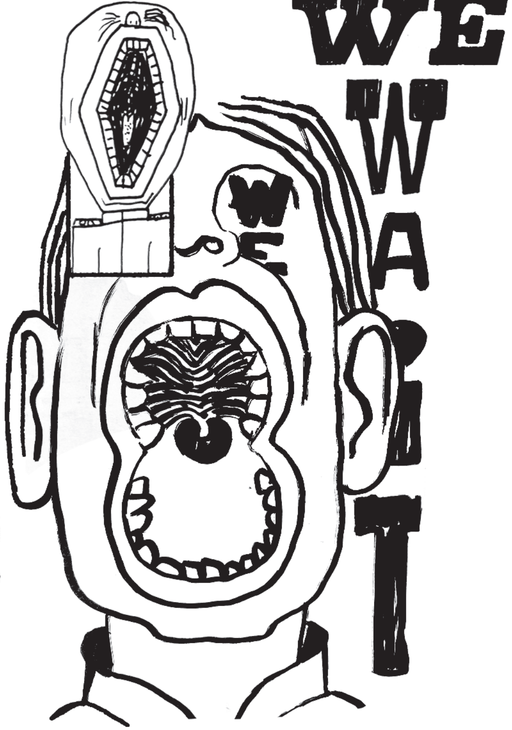
POST-WAR JAPAN & ITS PORTRAYAL CARRIES TRACES OF THE EMOTIONS OF POST-'89 ROMANIA.

THE FINAL 5 PAGES WERE MADE IN **DEC '24** FOR THE **20TH** ANNIVERSARY OF **OTAKU** MAGAZINE. SOME OF THE REST WERE DRAWN TOGETHER SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

FASCISM'S ASCENT PROMPTED ME TO LEAVE THIS ASIDE & FOCUS ON **WHILE WE WAIT** #5.

SEEING PATTERNS IN THE ENCROACHING DEVELOPMENT OF A.I., COUPLED WITH THE GLOBAL LIMITATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, LED ME TO DEVELOP THIS PUBLICATION.

AN EXERCISE IN PROBING THE BOUNDRIES OF PERCEPTION JUXTAPOSED WITH AN INTRO & OUTRO SWINDLED FROM TIMOTHY SNYDER.



WHILE WE WAIT is a self-published series featuring the work of Vazelina, a sort of cartoonist from Romania.

vazelina.ro

MAY 2026

WHILE WE WAIT #8

FREEDOM BY SNYDER

Brain Hacks - IT IS HARD TO BE FREE ALONE, SOVEREIGN ALONE, UNPREDICTABLE ALONE. IF I EVER BECAME REASONABLE, IT WAS THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME, NEIGHBOURING SOURCES OF **HUMAN INTELLIGENCE**. WHEN I WAS WITH MY TEACHER, **LESZEK KOŁAKOWSKI**, OR EVEN WHEN I READ HIS BOOKS TODAY, I HAVE A SENSE THAT I AM IN "CONTACT WITH THE **BORDER OF THE UNPREDICTABLE**." FREE PEOPLE WHO PUSH UP AGAINST THAT BORDER ARE EXPANDING THE 5TH DIMENSION, THE **REALM OF VIRTUES**.

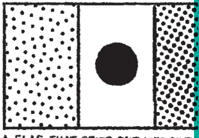
TO BECOME **FREE**, WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE SOURCES OF OUR PREDICTABILITY & OUR VULNERABILITY TO THEM.

WE MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND THE REGULARITIES OF THE BUILT **MENTAL WORLD** AROUND US, THE NETWORK OF MICROPROCESSORS WITHIN WHICH WE SPEND SO MUCH OF OUR LIVES. (...)

THE ALGORITHMS LOCATE THE PARTS OF US THAT ARE MOST PREDICTABLE, NOURISHING THEM UNTIL THEY SUPPRESS OUR CHARACTER. THEY CARRY OUT WHAT LONG AGO, THE MATHEMATICIAN **ADA LOVELACE** (1815-1852) CALLED A "**CALCULUS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM**."

BUT WE CAN ALSO USE SUCH KNOWLEDGE TO FIND **BRAIN HACKS** THAT DISABLE MANY HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PROFIT OF THE FEW. SOCIAL MEDIA DRAW FROM SUCH KNOWLEDGE.

I WAS SLOW IN SCHOOL, SOME MIGHT'VE LABELLED ME RETARDED. DRAWING HELPED TO TRANSLATE THE WORLD AROUND & COMICS GAVE ME A SENSE OF ~~PLACE~~ BELONGING.



A FLAG THAT CRIED OUT, LIES SILEN

'89

WAIT WE WAIT

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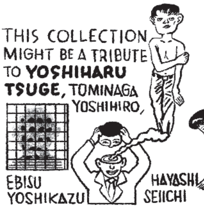

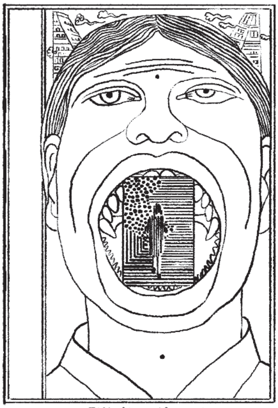

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A COLONIZER PORTRAYS OTHER COLONIZERS AS HAVING AGENCY, & THE COLONIZED PEOPLE AS WITHOUT AGENCY, & THEREFORE AS **INSTRUMENTS**. AS WE LOSE OUR SENSE OF **WHY**, WE ARE BEING COLONIZED BY OUR **MACHINES** – WITHOUT THE VERTIGINOUS TWIST THAT OUR MECHANICAL COLONIZERS HAVE **NO AGENCY**. WE ARE SUBMITTING TO AN ENTITY THAT CANNOT EVEN ENJOY ITS DOMINATION.

SIMONE WEIL PREDICTED THAT "CAPITALISM WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY OPPRESSION EXERCISED IN THE NAME OF FUNCTION."

IN "SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM", AS **SHOSHANA ZUBOFF** RIGHTLY CALLS IT, RATIONALITY MEANS CONSTANT **MONITORING**, SO THAT AN INVISIBLY **TINY** GROUP OF PEOPLE CAN PROFIT. THEIR **EMPIRE IS NOT VISIBLE IN TERRITORY**, LIKE THE EMPIRES OF OLD, & THEY (USUALLY) STASH THEIR WEALTH IN TAX SHELTERS RATHER THAN FLAUNTING IT IN MARBLE PALACES. THE **DIGITAL OLIGARCHS** THEMSELVES OFTEN HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE DOING, ASIDE FROM INDULGING IN SOME VAGUE COMPETITION WITH ONE ANOTHER. THEY **MONOPOLIZE** EVERYONE'S FUTURE & FILL IT WITH INBRED SILLINESS.

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